

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0024] with the following amended paragraph:

Of course, the objects in inventory 112, 114, 116, etc., may be monitored by virtually any other system and/or method utilized for object tracking well-known in the art of inventory control. For example, in other embodiments, objects in inventory 112, 114, 116, etc., may be monitored through the use of barcode labels 126, 128, and 130 placed on the objects in inventory 112, 114, 116, etc. respectively, and scanned by barcode scanners as the objects in inventory 112, 114, 116, etc., are brought into or removed from the storage room 110, by video cameras 134 and 136 monitoring the storage room 110, by mechanical devices 138, 140 and 142 (for example, devices that register the weight or the absence of the weight of an item in a predefined location), by electronic tablets that capture human writing, or by any other means that can positively differentiate the presence or absence of the tracked item.

Please replace paragraph [0027] with the following amended paragraph:

Referring now to Figure 2 there is shown a schematic diagram illustrating a remote inventory management system communicating the ingress or egress of objects in inventory to ~~a server~~ computer system 200 according to an embodiment of the present invention. In one embodiment, the storage area 210 includes ~~an~~ a tracking system 220, such as a wireless RFID system ~~, 220~~ which communicates with a server 230 via a wireless communications link 235 (e.g., a radio modem that may support communication within a public or private wireless network). When the identity of an entity (not shown in this view) is interpreted and accepted by a locking mechanism controller 240 the entity is allowed access to the storage area 210. A sensor 250 may monitor the door 245 as it opens and closes. Thus, every time an action happens in the storage area 210 (e.g., an entity enters the storage area 210, the sensor indicates that the door has opened, the RFID

system 220 indicates that objects in inventory have been removed, etc.), the information is transmitted to the server 230 via the wireless link 235.

Please replace paragraph [0028] with the following amended paragraph:

Note that these accesses and/or movements of goods may be authorized or not. The action is recorded/reported in either case. Further, the wireless link 235 may be replaced and/or augmented by a wired communication link. In addition to the movement of goods, status (e.g., defective, return, etc.) may also be monitored.

Please replace paragraph [0033] with the following amended paragraph:

Referring now to Figure 3 there is shown a flow chart 300 illustrating a remote inventory management system implementing inventory management solutions through a server computer system according to an embodiment of the present invention. In one embodiment, information regarding the ingress and egress or other movement of objects in inventory is transmitted by the remote inventory management system to a server and maintained in the server. Thus, when objects in inventory are depleted or otherwise moved (see step 310), this information may be transmitted (step 320) from the server to a user or client computer system through network interfaces, wireless interfaces, or telephone interfaces such as those described in the embodiment illustrated by Figure 1A. Upon receiving this information, the user may take steps to replenish (step 330) the objects in inventory. Similarly, the user or other consuming party may be automatically billed (step 335) for the objects in inventory, or the objects may be automatically returned (step 340) to inventory. The auto-replenishment (step 330), auto-billing (step 335), and auto-return (step 340) of objects in inventory may be made on a continual or batch mode basis and may be made exclusive of one another. Further, an access code may be generated automatically as a result of the notification (step 345).

Please replace paragraph [0035] with the following amended paragraph:

In the present embodiment, the components of the remote inventory management system 400 include a central processing unit (CPU) or other controller (e.g., an ASIC or FPGA) 422 containing or having an associated memory 424. The CPU 422 is coupled to a serial or other interface 426 which provides the communication path for the CPU 422 to an RFID reader 428 (which communicates via a radio modem 430 to RFID tags 432, 434, 436, etc.), a barcode scanner 440, a magnetic stripe or electronic card reader 442, and/or other peripheral devices 444 useful for the tracking of the ingress and egress or other movement of objects in inventory. The CPU 422 is also configured to receive inputs from an access code entry unit 446 and to unlock a locking mechanism controller 448 upon the interpretation and the acceptance of an access code by the CPU 422. Also coupled to the CPU 422 are Input/Output (I/O) devices including a keyboard (or other input device) 450 and a liquid crystal display (LCD) device (or other display) 452 which, in some cases, may be part of the access code entry unit 446 (e.g., to indicate to an entity an improper use of a magnetic stripe or electronic card reader, improper entry of an access code, etc.). A network connector 454 (e.g., wired or wireless network) may also be provided to allow for communication through network 455 with client ~~computers~~ computer(s) 456 and/or ~~servers~~ server(s) 458. Of course, there are many possible variations of the present embodiment.